

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 /041 W

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R 080735Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2794

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: FOLLOW UP ON AP STORY ON SHOEMAKER

REF: MANILA 2368

1. MG FIDEL RAMOS PRESIDED OVER TWO HOUR PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 5 AT WHICH HE DISCUSSED REPORT SUBMITTED TO SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE IN CASE OF DECEASED SHOEMAKER, ADRIANO (REFTEL). REPORT CONCLUDES MANG JUAN ADRIANO, DIED OF "CARDIO RESPIRATORY ARREST DUE TO SHOCK WITH PULMONARY EDEMA." REPUBUTTING ZEITLIN AP STORY, RAMOS SAID A) DOCUMENT SERVED ON ADRIANO JAN 22 NOT A SUBPONEA BUT NON COMPULSORY "LETTER OF INVITATION" AND B) ADRIANO WENT TO CAMP CRAME ON HIS OWN AND NOT, AS ALLEGED BY ZEITLIN, IN COMPANY OF METROCOM SOLDIERS WHO HAD SERVED LETTER ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR HIS WIFE. ACCORDING TO MARCH 5 DND PRESS RELEASE, ADRIANO NEVER REPORTED TO METROCOM INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATION UNIT. PRESS RELEASE SPECULATES APPREHENSIVE ADRIANO, WHOSE BODY FOUND NEAR CAMP CRAME GYMNASIUM, WAS SEEKING OUT CONSTABULARY HIGHWAY GROUP MEMBER WHO WAS ONE OF HIS CUSTOMERS TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO INQUIRY.

2. GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE AND STORY BASED ON IT IN EVENING EXPRESS MARCH 6 FAILED TO REVEAL THAT JUANITO CAMALIG, WHO HAD CAUSED LETTER OF INVITATION  
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TO BE ISSUED, WAS DRIVER FOR PC MAJOR ABADILLA WHO

SIGNED LETTER OR THAT CAMALIG HAS NOT BEEN QUESTIONED BY PC SINCE HE HAS DISAPPEARED. IT WAS ALSO NOT REPORTED THAT ADRIANO'S WIDOW ATTENDED THE SESSION. SHE CONTENDED THAT HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN IN PERFECT HEALTH AND HAD NO HISTORY OF HEART TROUBLE.

3. ADRIANO STROY HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF ENTIRE ISSUE OF COMMUNICATOR (PUBLICATION OF CATHOLIC NATIONAL OFFICE OF MASS MEDIA) AND WAS GIVEN FOUR PAGES IN FEB 27 SIGNS OF THE TIMES (AMRSP WEEKLY). AP STORY WHICH APPEARED IN MARCH 7 PACIFIC STARS & STRIPES MERELY REITERATES BASIC AP ACCOUNT WITHOUT REPORTING RAMOS PRESS CONFERENCE. EXPRESS COLUMNIST VALENCIA MARCH 7 CRITIZED AMERICAN NEWSMEN WHO "CONCOCT STORIES OF ATROCITIES OR FOUL PLAY TO SEND OUT FOR USE BY ENEMIES OF THE PHILIPPINES ABROAD, AND EVEN RIGHT HERE IN OUR MIDST THROUGH STARS & STRIPES WHICH SOME FILIPINOS CONSIDER THEIR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER. IS THIS SUBVERSION OR PRESS FREEDOM? YOU ANSWER THAT."

5. COMMENT: NEWSMAN WHO ATTENDED RAMOS PRESS CONFERENCE TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 5 HE THOUGHT GOP HAD MADE FAIRLY GOOD CASE THAT REGIME NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOEMAKER'S DEMISE. HE SAID CONSENSUS OF REPORTERS WHO COVERED SESSION WAS THAT MAJOR ABADILLA DID PERSONAL FAVOR FOR HIS DRIVER WHO WAS TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ADRIANO. WHETHER CAMALIG ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN ALTERCATION WITH ADRIANO WHICH LED TO HIS DEATH OR HEART ATTACK WAS INDEED DUE TO "NATURAL CAUSES" IS STILL OPEN TO QUESTION. SAME SOURCE TOLD US HE HAD HEARD PRESIDENT MARCOS FURIOUS AT ZEITLIN PIECE AND TOLD MILITARY TO GO ALL OUT TO REBUT STORY. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN UNPRECEDENTED TWO HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY RAMOS AND ATTENDED BY TWO OTHER GENERALS (FIDER AND CAMPOS) AND ABOUT DOZEN PC COLONELS. SINCE MARCH 5 PRESS CONFERENCE AND SHORT PIECES IN THAT AFTERNOON'S EXPRESS AND SATURDAYS PAPERS, HOWEVER, PRESS HAS CARRIED NOTHING FURTHER ON CASE. WHETHER AP WILL LET STORY DIE REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY EVENT  
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ZEITLIN'S STOCK WITH GOP NEVER HIGH HAS SUNK EVEN FURTHER. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, MOST INTERESTING AND HOPEFUL ASPECT OF CASE OF UNFORTUNATE SHOEMAKER IS APPARENT HEIGHTENED GOP SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. SULLIVAN

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